* **Introduction:** The project I’ll be presenting today is a website I’ve been working on using the tools we learned in class. I have purchased the domain name ineffablefungi.com and this is an actual live website. (Fungi pronunciation)
* Why this topic? (**Inspiration & Resources page**)
  + Mushroom hunting first made its way to my radar a couple of years ago when my girlfriend Jessie and I first started dating. She suggested it as a date idea early on in our relationship. This is back when I lived in Seattle and we were driving back and forth all the time. I thought it sounded like a fun idea, but we just never found the time to do it.
  + A year and a half later I was bouncing around podcasts and heard an episode of The Tim Ferris Show where he interviewed PNW mycologist and author Paul Stamets. Listening to Paul Stamets talk about the power of mushrooms in nature is extremely fascinating and really peaked my interest. I highly recommend listening to some of his talks. You can see some podcast episodes linked here on the website. Some of the coolest take-aways I learned were…
    - Mushrooms are just the “tip of the iceberg.” The underground networks of mycelium (think of roots) are vast & complicated. They are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem and many types are used for human supplements (Host Defense).
    - There can be up to 8 miles of one cell wall-thick mycelium in a cubic inch.
    - The largest organism on earth is a mycelia network in Eastern Oregon. It is over 2200 acres (4 square miles)
    - The Agarikon mushroom, found in old growth forests, has amazing antibacterial and antiviral properties. Research has shown strong activity against cowpox, swine & bird flu, and the virus that causes herpes. Native Americans and Ancient Greeks used Agarikon for a variety of ailments. It has been known as a treatment for several lung ailments, including tuberculosis, and has shown promising signs in post-9/11 studies combatting some methods of chemical warfare.
  + Around this time, I also started reading the book *How to Change Your Mind*, by Michael Pollan. Pollan is an author, journalist, and professor at both UC Berkley and Harvard. His book dives into the scientific work and trials that have been done and are being done to utilize drugs like psilocybin (the active component of magic mushrooms) to help people live better lives.
    - A common theme in this book is success stories from people who suffer from addiction to alcohol and nicotine, depression, anxiety, or coping with terminal cancer diagnosis being helped by a single high-dose psychedelic journey guided by a trial clinician or experienced underground therapist.
    - The book outlines compelling scientific hypothesis about why this treatment might be effective in treating disorders like these that involve people being stuck in an unhealthy pattern of though. (Snow ruts, snow globe)
    - History of stigma…60s
    - Current studies- Johns Hopkins, nyu?
  + These interesting facts became frequent talking points around the house and Jessie and I soon found ourselves sending each other pictures of cool mushrooms we found from our frequent dog adventure spots. About a month and a half ago, Jessie took a short trip to the Leavenworth, WA area and stayed in a cabin in the woods for a few days (It’s been a while since I could do anything like this due to this class). While hiking there and seeing some really cool mushrooms, she had an idea about creating a space where we could share all of our findings and identify the mushrooms we’d found. So that’s what this project is all about!
* Data Source
* CSV to SQLite
* Flask App
  + API page
* Website tour
* Future